

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, January 12, 2015.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Konrad E. Herling was delayed due to Metro problems and arrived at 8:01 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; John Shay, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in memory of residents Elizabeth Kaser Maffay, Alvin Hargrove, Lucinda Frend and Keith Marshall, and former residents James Shanahan and Winston Hazard. He then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Davis requested “Reappointments to Advisory Groups” be removed from the consent agenda and be considered on the regular agenda tonight. With that change, it was moved by Mr. Herling and seconded by Mr. Putens that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

Minutes:

Regular Meeting, November 24, 2014
Work Session, December 1, 2014
Regular Meeting, December 8, 2014
Work Session, December 15, 2014
Work Session, December 22, 2014
Approved as Presented

Committee Reports:

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Open Forum Report: Council accepted this report and directed staff to provide any needed responses to issues raised to Council as well as to the Committee as soon as they are available.

Advisory Committee on Education, Report #2015-1 (Grant Proposals – 2015):
Council accepted this report and will consider it on the agenda of the next meeting.

Renewal of Red Light Camera Contract: Council authorized extending the contract with Laser Craft, Inc. for the automated red light enforcement program for one year to January 2016.

Appointment of Councilmembers to Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Policy Boards and Committees: Council authorized the following appointments to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) policy boards and committees for 2015:

Board of Directors	-	Mayor Jordan
Alternate	-	Ms. Davis
Transportation Planning Board	-	Mr. Roberts
Alternate	-	Mr. Herling
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Comm.	-	Ms. Mach
Alternate	-	Mr. Herling
Region Forward Coalition	-	Mr. Jordan
Alternate	-	Mr. Herling
Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee	-	Mr. Putens
Alternate	-	Ms. Pope
Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee	-	Ms. Davis
Alternate	-	Ms. Mach
Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee	-	Ms. Davis
Alternate	-	Mr. Putens

Resignation from Advisory Group: Council accepted the resignation of Amanda Brozana from the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Ms. Pope and seconded by Mr. Herling that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Introduction of New Staff: Jim Sterling, Acting Director of Public Works, introduced Richard Fink II, the new Superintendent of Parks and Grounds.

Mr. Sterling announced that Erin Josephitis was the new Volunteer Maryland Coordinator but she was unable to attend this evening due to an accident. He commented on several upcoming volunteer events.

Council welcomed Mr. Fink and Ms. Josephitis.

Service Award Pins: Ms. Davis recognized Mayor Jordan and Councilmember Pope who were awarded five year service pins at the City's holiday celebration on December 16, 2014. Mayor Jordan also congratulated Mr. McLaughlin who was recognized with a thirty-five year service award at the celebration.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: None

Statement for the Record – Executive Session of December 22, 2014: Ms. Davis moved that in accordance with Section 10-509 (c) (2) of the State Government Article of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland*, the minutes of tonight's meeting reflect that Council met in executive session on Monday, December 22, 2014, at 8:04

p.m. in the Council Room of the Municipal Building. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a) (1) of the State Government Article of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland* to discuss personnel matters.

Vote to close session:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Davis	X			
Mr. Herling	X			
Ms. Mach	X			
Ms. Pope	X			
Mr. Putens	X			
Mr. Roberts	X			
Mayor Jordan	X			

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; and John Shay, City Solicitor.

Other individuals in attendance: None

Council took no actions during this session.

Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Regular Meeting, November 24, 2014: Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of this meeting be returned to the agenda for discussion. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Roberts expressed concern regarding reference to the FPAB Report #2013-1, under "Updating of Forest Preserve Management and Maintenance Guidelines" as noted in the draft minutes. After discussion, Council requested the City Clerk review the minutes and they be included on the agenda of the next meeting for approval.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Ms. Davis requested more frequent written status reports on the Theater Renovation Project be provided to Council. Mr. Putens suggested the reports be provided on a bi-weekly basis.

Ms. Davis asked about the status of the assessment of the Forest Preserve. Mr. McLaughlin will check with staff and provide an update to Council.

Ms. Davis requested Fire Department directional signage be included with the newly installed Police Department directional signage.

Mayor Jordan asked about the status of the Gateway Signage. Mr. McLaughlin advised Council has requested a briefing on this item at a work session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION: None

Draft Background and Scope of Services for Joint Use North County Animal Shelter: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Mayor Jordan explained the County is seeking to undertake a feasibility study to determine whether a second County animal shelter in the North County area is merited and if so, what type of shelter and services would be useful. He said this idea had been discussed at the recent Four Cities meeting with member municipalities including Greenbelt, College Park, Berwyn Heights and New Carrollton.

Ms. Davis asked if other (non Four Cities members) municipalities, such as Riverdale Park, University Park and Laurel, would also be donating to the study. Mr. McLaughlin said since the idea was initiated at a Four Cities meeting, the County has been focusing on the member municipalities. He said a suggestion can be included that the County solicits involvement from other municipalities in the northern County.

Ms. Davis also said the idea of a partnering with a private organization, such as a pet store, dog groomer, etc., had been discussed and should be included as part of the study.

Mr. Roberts said he would only support a City contribution to the study if it was not operated the same as the existing County shelter. He said his preference was for non-profit or volunteer operation of a "No Kill" facility. Mayor Jordan mentioned the study is to explore different possibilities for facility operation. Ms. Davis noted this was mentioned in the Background and Scope of Services document.

Ms. Mach mentioned this is only an opportunity to explore the idea of the Joint Use North County Animal Shelter. She said if the Shelter is approved, the City can decide at that time whether to participate.

Ms. Davis moved that Council approve a contribution of \$5,000 to the County for a Feasibility Study regarding a Joint Use North County Animal Shelter with the following conditions; 1) the County solicit involvement of other municipalities in the County; and 2) the idea of partnering with a private organization be explored as part of the Study. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Referral to the Advisory Planning Board – Sage Economic Development Study: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach said she was not opposed to referring the Economic Development Study prepared by Sage Policy Group, Inc. study to the Advisory Planning Board (APB) but stressed the need to move forward on some of the recommendations of the Study without waiting for board reports to be submitted. Mayor Jordan agreed and mentioned that Council has a work session scheduled on the Study on January 21, 2015.

Mr. Putens expressed concern about the possible work load impacts on staff resulting on APB's findings/report.

Mr. Roberts said he would like to hear thoughts on the study from other City advisory boards and committees, such as the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability and the Youth Advisory Committee. Ms. Mach mentioned that many boards and committees are very busy, such as PRAB with the Buddy Attick Park Master Plan.

Mr. Herling said he hoped APB would consider the idea of hiring an Economic Development Director as part of their review of the Study.

Ms. Davis moved that Council refer a review of the Economic Development Study prepared by Sage Policy Group, Inc. to APB. Ms. Pope seconded.

After discussion, Ms. Davis suggested all City advisory boards and committees be informed of the study, its location on the City website, and invite them to submit comments on the study -- if they would like to. She also suggested APB invite other board/committee members to participate in its discussion of the study.

The motion passed 7-0.

Playground Surfacing Action Plan: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Council reviewed the draft action plan submitted by staff for the removal of shredded rubber in nine (9) playgrounds and replacement with Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF). The plan suggests the City remove the shredded rubber in the one City-owned playground at 1 court Southway and seek input from Greenwood Village (1 playground), Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (2 playgrounds) and Windsor Green (5 playgrounds) about removal and replacement with EWF under the City's cost sharing agreement (City 75%/Owner 25%). The estimated cost of the plan is \$90,000.

Ms. Mach mentioned the Park & Recreation Advisory Board Report #2014-1 recommends that a variety of playground surface options be provided. She said the City-owned playground at 1 court Southway is a shaded playground and thinks that it would be a good playground to offer a poured in place (PIP) surface in place of an EWF surface.

Mayor Jordan asked how long EWF can be in place before mold becomes an issue. Mr. Moran advised that EWF needs to be raked on a regular basis to deal with mold issues. He added that mold will develop quicker in playgrounds in shadier/more moist areas. Ms. Davis mentioned that increased staff to maintain EWF playgrounds properly may be necessary.

There was discussion regarding the heat generated from the PIP playground surface when the playground is located in full sun. Ms. Davis said she had suggested a sign be fabricated for these playgrounds that contain a warning about high surface and equipment temperatures. She said she hoped the signs could be in place by the spring.

Ms. Davis suggested Greenwood Village, Greenbelt Homes, Inc., and Windsor Green (HOA's) be asked if they want their playground surfacing changed and if so, when they expect to be able to afford their portion of the replacement cost. Mr. Putens said some HOA's may not have funds to move forward with replacement of playground surfacing material.

Mr. Roberts said the City should move forward as quickly as possible with removing all shredded rubber playground surfacing since this is not an appropriate product for use.

Ms. Mach said EWF could be a problem at 1 court Southway playground with mold due to shade and moisture. Ms. Davis said she would rather change this playground to EWF immediately and then look for grant and/or discuss during the budget process funding for PIP at this location.

In response to a question from Ms. Mach, Mr. Moran advised the 1 court Southway playground was last renovated in 2007 and there are no plans for an upgrade at this location in the near future. Ms. Mach said she would like to know the costs for EWF and PIP at this playground and the possibilities of finding grants for just replacing a playground surface.

Mayor Jordan and Mr. Herling asked the timeline for replacing the rubber mulch in the City-owned 1 court Southway playground. Mr. Moran said since both the rubber mulch and EWF are both loose fill surfacing materials, replacement with EWF would go rather quickly - weather permitting. He said to replace the surface with PIP would require more time because of some needed redesign work and would also be more costly.

Mr. Putens moved that Council direct staff to: 1) remove the shredded rubber in the City-owned 1 court Southway playground and replace the surface with EWF; and 2) seek input from Greenwood Village, Greenbelt Homes, Inc., and Windsor Green about removal and replacement of their shredded rubber playground surfaces with EWF under the City's cost sharing agreement. Ms. Davis seconded.

Ms. Mach said she would not support having the shredded rubber surface in the City-owned playground replaced with EWF at this time.

Mr. Mach moved that Council separate the motion into two parts: 1) seek input from HOA's regarding their interest in removal of shredded rubber surface with EWF surface; and 2) replacement of the shredder rubber in the City-owned playground at 1 court Southway with EWF. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 5-2. (Putens, Roberts)

Ms. Davis moved that Council direct staff to seek input from HOA's regarding removal of shredded rubber surface with EWF surface under the City's cost sharing agreement.

Mr. Putens asked the City Solicitor for a ruling on the separation of the motion that had been seconded. Mr. Shay said it was proper.

Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 6-1. (Roberts)

Ms. Davis moved that Council direct staff to remove the shredded rubber in the City-owned playground at 1 court Southway and replace with EWF as soon as possible. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion failed 3-4. (Jordan, Putens, Pope, Mach)

Ms. Mach moved that Council direct staff to research the cost of replacing the shredded rubber in the City-owned playground at 1 court Southway with EWF and PIP and provide Council that information for review prior to the budget process. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 4-3. (Davis, Putens, Roberts)

Bus Stop Benches – Cherrywood Lane: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Mayor Jordan advised that Prince George's County had installed four metal benches with space for advertising in the seat back at bus stops along Cherrywood Lane. He said the City has declined in the past to participate in the County's bus shelter program because of the advertising and the style, which does not reflect Greenbelt's shelters. Mr. McLaughlin said the County has agreed to remove the benches if requested to do so by the City.

Mayor Jordan said he is hesitant to request the County remove the benches which are being used by bus riders since the City has no plans in place to install a City bench in these locations.

Mr. McLaughlin said the City has installed benches and shelters as resources are available and dependent on ridership usage at the bus stops.

Ms. Davis said she wasn't opposed to the County benches, just the County allowance for advertising on the seat back. She asked if the County would want to leave the benches in place but remove the advertising component or would include City information as the advertising component. Mr. McLaughlin said it was unlikely the County would allow the City to do so.

Ms. Davis also advised the four County benches had been not been installed properly and were placed next to the street or straddling sidewalks. She said if the County benches were to remain, they needed to be properly installed with a concrete pad. Ms. Pope agreed that the benches had not been installed properly.

Mr. Roberts said it was not acceptable to remove the benches without a plan for replacement with City benches. He said the City should install its own benches in these locations to have uniformity throughout the City.

In response to a question from Ms. Pope, Mr. McLaughlin said the cost to install a City bus stop bench is approximately \$500, not including the concrete pad. Mr. Putens said he would like to include the bench locations on the list for future installation of City bus shelters. Mr. Herling said he supports this idea.

After further discussion, Ms. Pope moved that Council: 1) send a letter to the County requesting removal of the benches; 2) authorize replacement of the benches with City benches; and 3) consider bus stop shelters at these locations during the budget process. Ms. Davis seconded.

Mr. Putens questioned how many City bus shelters are in Greenbelt West. Mr. McLaughlin estimated five. Mr. Putens said he would like to have a bus shelter installed on Cherrywood Lane near the Courthouse also.

The motion passed 6-1. (Jordan) Mr. Jordan said he thinks the replacement of the County benches with City benches will take too long and expressed his preference that the City work with the County to retain the County benches in place.

Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach suggested staff coordinate with the County so that the County benches are removed when the City is able to pour concrete and install new benches.

Council Reports: Councilmembers commented on their attendance at the following events.

Prince George's Elected Municipal Women's Meeting – Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach
New Year's Eve Event at Greenbelt Arts Center – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Putens, Ms. Mach and Mr. Herling
Greenbelt Police Shop with a Cop Event – Ms. Pope
Windsor Green Holiday Open House – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach, Ms. Pope and Mr. Putens
Greenway Center Brunch with Santa – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Ms. Pope and Mr. Putens
Meals on Wheels Appreciation Holiday Luncheon – Ms. Davis
Washington Metropolitan Area Council of Governments Annual Meeting – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach
Charity Gala sponsored by Community Crisis Services – Ms. Davis
Beltway Plaza Merchants Association Holiday Gathering – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis
V. J. Kowtha's Robotic Club Safety Meeting – Ms. Davis
Senator Paul Pinsky's Town Hall Meeting – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis and Mr. Herling
Prince George's County Municipal Association Legislative Committee Meeting – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis
Swearing In Ceremony for DC Mayor Muriel Bowser – Mayor Jordan
Greenbelt Tennis Association Fundraiser Event in Memory of Al Hargrove – Mayor Jordan

Reappointments to Advisory Groups: Ms. Davis mentioned comments noted on the reappointment forms of two advisory group members. She then moved that the following individuals be reappointed to new terms on City Advisory Boards and Committees:

David Whiteman	Advisory Committee on Education
Janet Jacobs Parker	Community Relations Advisory Board
Coleen Chernikoff	Employee Relations Board
Kevin Murphy	Employee Relations Board

Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

Executive Session: Ms. Davis moved that Council schedule an Executive Session on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 8:00 p.m., in the Library of the Municipal Building. She

said Council will hold this closed meeting in accordance with General Provisions Article 3-305 (b) (14) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland* to discuss an award of contract for the Greenbelt Theater Operations. Ms. Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Davis - yes
Mr. Herling - yes
Ms. Mach - yes
Ms. Pope - yes
Mr. Putens - yes
Mr. Roberts - yes
Mayor Jordan - yes

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Mach moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Jordan adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, January 12, 2015, at 10:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held January 12, 2015."

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor